

Amendments to the Claims

CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of ~~course~~ coarse representation of a shape of a visible object in a digital picture comprising the steps of:
 - segmenting visible objects from the digital picture;
 - extracting a bitmap for an object of interest from the segmented visible objects; and
 - estimating from the bitmap and a display aspect ratio a binding box for the object of interest.
2. (original) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the estimating step comprises the steps of:
 - estimating in pixel units a set of parameters for the binding box; and
 - normalizing the pixel units to form a feature vector representing the binding box.
3. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 2 further comprising the step of searching a video database having visible objects, each visible object having an associated feature vector, as to find those objects whose feature vectors match the feature vector of the object of interest.
4. (original) The method as recited in claim 3 wherein the searching step comprises the steps of:

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computing aspect ratios for all visible objects in the video database;
computing distances according to a specified distance metric between
the desired aspect ratio and the aspect ratios for the visible objects in the
video database;
sorting the distances in descending order to produce a sort list of
aspect ratios and associated visible objects; and
displaying the visible objects associated with the aspect ratios that are
at the top of the sort list.